

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995

APRIL 3, 1995.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CLINGER, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany S. 244]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 244), to further the goals of the Paperwork Reduction Act to have Federal agencies become more responsible and publicly accountable for reducing the burden of Federal paperwork on the public, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION POLICY.

Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 35—COORDINATION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION POLICY

"Sec.

"3501. Purposes.

"3502. Definitions.

"3503. Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

"3504. Authority and functions of Director.

"3505. Assignment of tasks and deadlines.

"3506. Federal agency responsibilities.

- "3507. Public information collection activities; submission to Director; approval and delegation.
- "3508. Determination of necessity for information; hearing.
- "3509. Designation of central collection agency.
- "3510. Cooperation of agencies in making information available.
- "3511. Establishment and operation of Government Information Locator Service.
- "3512. Public protection.
- "3513. Director review of agency activities; reporting; agency response.
- "3514. Responsiveness to Congress.
- "3515. Administrative powers.
- "3516. Rules and regulations.
- "3517. Consultation with other agencies and the public.
- "3518. Effect on existing laws and regulations.
- "3519. Access to information.
- "3520. Authorization of appropriations.

[...]

"§3511. Establishment and operation of Government Information Locator Service

"(a) In order to assist agencies and the public in locating information and to promote information sharing and equitable access by the public, the Director shall—

"(1) cause to be established and maintained a distributed agency-based electronic Government Information Locator Service (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Service'), which shall identify the major information systems, holdings, and dissemination products of each agency;

"(2) require each agency to establish and maintain an agency information locator service as a component of, and to support the establishment and operation of the Service;

"(3) in cooperation with the Archivist of the United States, the Administrator of General Services, the Public Printer, and the Librarian of Congress, establish an interagency committee to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the development of technical standards for the Service to ensure compatibility, promote information sharing, and uniform access by the public;

"(4) consider public access and other user needs in the establishment and operation of the Service;

"(5) ensure the security and integrity of the Service, including measures to ensure that only information which is intended to be disclosed to the public is disclosed through the Service; and

"(6) periodically review the development and effectiveness of the Service and make recommendations for improvement, including other mechanisms for improving public access to Federal agency public information.

"(b) This section shall not apply to operational files as defined by the Central Intelligence Agency Information Act (50 U.S.C. 431 et seq.).

Excerpts from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin 95-1, December 7, 1994

Background. This Bulletin establishes the Government Information Locator Service (GILS) to help the public and agencies locate and access information throughout the U.S. government. It is issued in furtherance of OMB Circular No. A-130, which encourages agencies to ensure public access to government information...and to establish aids to locating agency information, such as catalogs and directories...GILS will identify information resources throughout the Executive Branch, describe the information available, and provide assistance in how to obtain the information. It will improve agencies' abilities to carry out their records management responsibilities and to respond to Freedom of Information Act requests. It will also serve to reduce the information collection burden on the public by making existing information more readily available for sharing among agencies...

Policy. ...Inventories and finding aids can be an important tool to help other agencies and the public identify information which is available, as well as to help agencies carry out their responsibilities effectively to manage...electronic records. Inventories also serve both to increase the efficiency of the dissemination function and to avoid unnecessary burdens of duplicative information collections. The inventories of agency automated information systems and information dissemination products that are reflected in the GILS Core will serve these ends...

Each agency should establish one or more channels for access to its GILS Core locator records, balancing the goals of facilitating access by the public, assuring appropriate security..., and minimizing costs to the Government. Direct Internet access to GILS Core locator records should be free of charge...Other information dissemination products which include GILS records should be priced in accordance with...Circular A-130.

Agency GILS are to be established and maintained in accordance with FIPS Pub. 192. As specified in FIPS Pub. 192, the GILS Profile provides the mechanisms for navigating among Federal government locators through specifications given for the GILS Core locator records. Direct users of GILS must be able to use nonproprietary software to access and retrieve information from information sources conforming to FIPS Pub. 192....GILS will become an integral part of the Federal government's overall information management and dissemination infrastructure, and will ultimately facilitate both identification

and direct retrieval of government information. As a first step, agencies should inventory their existing holdings...To the extent practicable, agency GILS should contain automated links to underlying databases to permit direct access to information identified in the GILS.

Responsibilities. ...

The head of each agency should:

By December 31, 1995, compile an inventory of its 1) automated information systems, 2) Privacy Act systems of records, and 3) locators that together cover all of its information dissemination products. Each such automated information system, Privacy Act system of records, and locator of information dissemination products shall be described by a GILS Core locator record that includes the mandatory GILS Core Elements, and appropriate optional GILS Core Elements as defined in FIPS Pub. 192 and 36 CFR 1228.22(b). Agencies should also supplement the GILS Core Elements with other data elements suitable for specific agency records management and information dissemination needs and objectives.... Similar information dissemination products and automated information systems may be identified by a single GILS Core locator record, provided that the locator record clearly identifies the number and scope of items aggregated...

By December 31, 1995, make its initial GILS Core locator records available on-line in a form compliant with FIPS Pub. 192 and the related application profile...

Continually update its inventory and GILS Core locator records as new information dissemination products and automated information systems are identified...

Interagency Committees.

Interagency committees which promote access to and use of Federal information are encouraged to coordinate the efforts of their participating agencies in developing their respective GILS inventories and interagency topical locators when appropriate to their respective missions. Where there is a consensus on the high secondary use value of basic data maintained by multiple agencies, interagency committees should coordinate the development of aggregate information products to meet specific needs identified by communities of interest.